

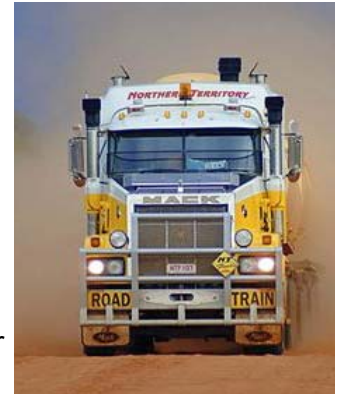
Unsecured load causes fatalities

Purpose

To remind employers, employees, contractors and freight consignors about the necessity of ensuring items placed in a containment method (pallets or similar) for transport are secured and drivers check loads regularly during the journey.

Incident

On 22 January 2003 three children were killed in a motor vehicle accident when the vehicle they were travelling in ran over steel plates which had earlier fallen from a pallet on a road train.



Recommendations

- All commercial drivers, whether employees or self-employed, be issued with a copy of the *Load Restraints Guide* and instructed to refer to the guide.
- All employers involved in consigning freight ensure that all persons tasked undertake training in relation to packing of items for road transport in relation to the selection of containment (pallets, cages, bins), construction of the containment (metal, wood), and securing of items on pallets, cages, bins etc in reference to company or manufacturers' procedures, and that *Load Restraint Guide* and training records are kept.
- All employers and self-employed persons involved in the Road Transport Industry ensure that training is provided in relation to checking loads on trucks and trailers, and on how to properly restrain various types of freight in reference to the *Load Restraint Guide*. The [Load Restraint Guide Training Package](#) covering of load restraint requirements has been developed by the Roads and Training Authority (RTA) NSW and can be downloaded for the purpose of training, reference material or guidance.
- That employers and subcontractors provide all the equipment necessary to restrain the various types of loads.
- That all drivers check loads and ensure that the loads are restrained to the truck or trailer before moving off.
- That the driver checks the load at appropriate times during the journey in accordance to the *risk assessment**.
- That a certified load restraint system should be implemented. An example of a certified load restraint system can be found in the *Load Restraint Guide, second edition, 2004*.

* *risk assessment* – the risk assessment should take into account the type of load, the duration of the trip, conditions of the road, weather conditions etc

Legislative requirements

Work Health Act, section 29(1):

“An employer shall, so far as is practicable –

- (a) provide and maintain a working environment at a workplace that is safe and without risk to the health or safety of the workers working at the workplace; and*
- (b) ensure that the health and safety of any other person is not adversely affected as a result of the work in which the employer or any worker is engaged.”*

Penalties exist for breaches of *the Act*. **Penalty** In the case of a body corporate - \$125,000
In the case of a natural person - \$25,000

If the load contains dangerous goods reference should be made to the Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Regulations which outlines requirements of vehicle owners, consignors, packers, loaders and prime contractors.

The main objects of these Regulations are –

- (a) to reduce as far as practicable the risks of personal injury, property damage and environmental harm arising from the transport of dangerous goods by road;*
- (b) to give effect to the standards, requirements and procedures of the ADG Code so far as they apply to the transport of dangerous goods by road; and*
- (c) to promote consistency between the standards, requirements and procedures applying to the transport of dangerous goods by road and by other modes of transport.*

Further information

National Transport Commission of Australia

[Load Restraint Guide Brochure](#)

[Load Restraint in Electronic Format](#)

[Load Restraint Training Resource Material](#)

How to obtain a hard copy of the Load Restraint Guide 2nd Edition 2004 in the Northern Territory:

Motor Vehicle Registry offices and Katherine Weighbridge

Telephone: 1300 654 628

Additional information on this or other safety matters is available from:

NT WorkSafe

Darwin

GPO Box 4821 Darwin NT 0801

Telephone: 1800 019 115 ♦ Facsimile: (08) 8999 5141

Email: ntworksafe.deet@nt.gov.au ♦ Website: worksafe.nt.gov.au

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